

MAY 1.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

*Parasites of the Rock Fish.*—Dr. LEIDY stated that he recently had examined the gills and entrails of a Rock-fish, *Labrax lineatus*, weighing 20 pounds, on which he made the following remarks. The gills were swarming with the little crustacean parasite *Ergasilus labracis*. In many of these the thorax and egg-sacs were opaque milk-white, but in most of them the latter were more translucent and of a blue color. This difference is due to the development of the embryos, within which there appears blue pigment.

Attached to the gills there were three opaque milk-white fluke-worms and a fourth of the same kind was embedded in the muscular coat of the pharynx. These appear to pertain to an undescribed species, and may therefore be distinguished by the following name and description:—

**DISTOMUM GALACTOSOMUM.** Opaque milk-white, depressed, spatulate, narrowest in advance, obtusely rounded at both extremities, dorsally convex, ventrally flat. Head rounded truncate or transversely oval discoid, with prominent margin, unarmed; neck short, slightly widening to the ventral acetabulum, which is sessile, larger than the oral acetabulum, and with its orifice appearing triangular; posterior part of the body elliptical, in movement expanding and becoming thinner and translucent, and concave beneath with the opaque white intestine on each side shining through. At rest about 6 mm. long by 2 mm. wide; elongating to 12 mm. by 2.5 mm. wide posteriorly, and 1 mm. at the base of the neck.

After being killed in dilute alcohol, the specimens remained of spatulate shape, 6 to 8 mm. long, 2 mm. wide behind. The oral acetabulum 0.625 broad; the ventral acetabulum situated 1.375 mm. back of the summit of the head, was 0.875 broad.

When the animal was in motion and expanded the posterior portion of the body to such an extent as to render it translucent, the intestine on each side became especially conspicuous through its white opacity. The intestines extended directly from the minute pharynx to the caudal extremity, more or less tortuous according to the degree of elongation or shortening of the animal. They are widest back of the ventral acetabulum and are sacculated. In the expanded condition of the body, by transmitted light, it exhibited a minutely reticular appearance, the lines of the rete being more opaque white and apparently according with a capillary net communicating laterally with the vessels proceeding from the caudal vesicle. The opaque white appearance of the body seems to be due to the presence of granules of calcium carbonate, for the application of acetic acid caused their disappearance with the evolution of bubbles of gas, and

the body became more uniformly translucent, without however affecting the white opacity of the intestines. The generative apparatus appears to be undeveloped, as no distinct organs were observable. At the middle of the posterior portion of the body, in the usual position of the testes, there appeared a single clearer spot, and in advance of it a clearer streak. The character of these he had not determined.

Many worms, the *Echinorhynchus proteus*, clung to the interior of the intestine its whole length, but they were not so numerous as, nor larger than, they are commonly found to be in smaller individuals of the same fish.

Of two other large Rock-fish examined, weighing each about a dozen pounds, one was free of parasites of all kinds, and in the other there were only a few of the little crustacean, *Ergasilus*, adhering to the gills; and within the abdominal cavity, adherent to the stomach, closely coiled and encysted, a dozen nematoid worms, the *Agamomena capsularia*, a common parasite of the shad and herring. Neither of the fish contained a single *Echinorhynchus*, a remarkable circumstance, for he had never before examined a Rock-fish without finding this parasite present.

*Louse of the Pelican.*—PROF. LEIDY remarked that the admirable monograph of E. Piaget, "Les Pediculines," a large work with supplement, in 3 quarto volumes, illustrated, and published in Leyden from 1880 to 1885, presented to night, had reminded him that he had formerly made a communication to the Academy on an insect of the kind, which was remarkable on account of its living in the pouch of the Pelican. A brief description of the louse, under the name of *Menopon perale* is given in the Proceedings 1878, p. 100. Mr. Piaget describes two species of *Menopon* from Pelicans, *M. titan*, living on *Pelicanus onocrotalus* and *M. consanguineum*, which he observes appears by preference to infest the interior of the great pouch of *P. erythrorhynchus*. He remarks of the latter that it probably has some relation with *Menopon perale*, and regrets the insufficient description of this species for comparison. Prof. Leidy continued that M. Piaget's figures of *Menopon titan* and *M. consanguineum* appear so nearly alike and resemble so closely *M. perale* that from his own judgment, he would have regarded them as all of one species. In 1878 he had prepared a more detailed description with figures of *Menopon perale*, intended for publication in one of the government reports, but as it was not called for, it was forgotten until he was reminded of it by the appearance of the great work of M. Piaget. *Menopon perale* was named from specimens submitted to him by Prof. Wyman, who obtained it from the pouch of *Pelicanus trachyrhynchus*, in Florida, and others obtained by Dr. E. Coues, from the same bird, on the Red River, near Pembina, Dakota. Dr. Coues in his "Birds of the North West," U. S. Geol. Surv. 1874, 587, says of the White Pelican: "I took a female in very poor flesh, with worn, harsh, plumage, which was attributable to a disease of the pouch. On the